

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I agree with the Minister. That is already there. I think the best suggestion has come from Shri Barnala, if you can examine his suggestion regarding the entry of the CCI.

#### National Commission for Safai Karamchari

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\*229. SHRI N. DENNIS :  
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the budget allocation for the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis during 1996-97;

(b) the location of the Headquarters of the Commission;

(c) the number of employees working in the Commission;

(d) whether the Commission has examined the living conditions of the scavengers;

(e) if so, the details of the report submitted in this regard during 1995-96;

(f) whether the Commission has made any proposal for setting up its Regional Offices at Bangalore and other places of the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The budget allocation for the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis during 1996-97 is Rs. 70 lakh. However, in R.E. 1996-97 it has been increased to Rs. 7.50 lakhs.

(b) The Commission is located in 'B' Wing, 4th Floor of Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi.

(c) Apart from the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members of the Commission 43 employees are working in the Commission. However, the total sanctioned strength of the Commission is 46, out of which 3 posts (2 of Private Secretary and one of Research Assistant) are lying vacant. In addition, 10 group 'D' staff have been engaged on daily wage basis.

(d) and (e) The Commission have submitted the first Report for the year 1994-95 during November, 1995 which, inter alia, included recommendations pertaining to the term and status of the Commission, financial autonomy, definition of scavenger, survey, stipend, training, project cost of rehabilitation, publicity to the scheme, timely release of funds, adoption of cluster approach, monitoring, facilities for Safai Karamcharis, finance corporation exclusively for Safai Karamcharis, etc.

(f) The Commission has not made any proposal for setting up of Regional office at Bangalore.

(g) Does not arise.

SHRI N. DENNIS : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister the steps that are being taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis and also for the development of their economic, social and other living conditions? Is there any special programme is being evolved to enable them to cross the poverty line? Will the Government set up regional offices in the South to speed up the activities of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, the Government has launched a national scheme of liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers and their dependents. Under this scheme, we have first identified the number of persons who are in this obnoxious occupation of carrying human excreta on head and the number of persons who are scavengers.

12.00 hrs.

We have 7,50,000 scavengers all over India. We have different schemes for the elimination of this profession. We are offering them substitute or alternative employment, and we are sure that by 2002 the Government will be in a position to eliminate this bad profession.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Mobile Zoos

\*221. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of registered as well as unregistered mobile zoos operating in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Central Zoo Authority has banned the unregistered mobile zoos in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the assistance, if any given to such registered mobile zoos by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The total number of mobile zoos in the country which have made applications to Central Zoo Authority for recognition is 25. These are 11 in Bihar, 1 in Tamil Nadu, 9 in Uttar Pradesh and 4 in West Bengal. Besides these, 2 zoos from Madhya Pradesh and 1 zoo from Rajasthan which did not make any application to the Central Zoo Authority for recognition have approached Hon'ble High Court of Delhi to allow them to continue their operations.

(b) Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides that no zoo can be operated without getting recognition from the Central Zoo Authority. Action is being taken accordingly.

(c) The aforesaid provision was made in the Act with a view to ensure that the animals in the zoos get conditions congenial to their physical and mental health.

(d) Central Government has not given any assistance mobile zoos.

#### Insurgency in Tripura

\*225. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARAYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Rebels kill 24 in Tripura" appearing in 'Statesman', dated February 17, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the State Government has proved a failure in tackling the situation effectively;

(d) whether the Central Government have taken the matter seriously;

(e) if so, the steps taken to control the situation in the State; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Both the State and Central Governments have, in close coordination, taken several steps which, inter alia, include induction of adequate number of Central Para-Military Forces and Army units, improved coordination and sharing of intelligence, declaration of the worst affected areas as disturbed areas, strengthening/modernisation of the State Police Force and sanction of Special Central Financial Assistance.

[Translation]

#### Production of Groundnut

\*228. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated total production of groundnut in the country during 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) whether there has been decline in the production of groundnut during 1995-96 in some States;

(c) if so, the names of such States and the extent to which it has declined as compared to 1994-95;

(d) the reasons for decline; and

(e) the special steps taken by the Government to boost the production of groundnut?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The estimated data on the production of groundnut in the country for Rabi 1996-97 season have not yet become

available. However, the State-wise production of groundnut during Kharif 1996-97 season is given in the Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The decline in production has been to the extent of 2.4 Lakh Tonnes, primarily due to less production in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan during 1995-96. A comparative statement of estimates of production of groundnut during 1994-95 and 1995-96 showing the decline in production in some States over the year 1994-95 is given in the Statement-II.

(d) This shortfall in the production of groundnut was due to the vagaries of weather. The Monsoon was delayed which affected the sowing operations in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Orissa. A long dry spell followed causing moisture stress affecting the production.

(e) In order to boost the production of groundnut including other oilseeds in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in operation in 22 States. Under the programme financial assistance is being provided by way of subsidies for various critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, rhizobium culture, gypsum/pyrites, improved farm implements, plant protection equipments, farmer's training, sprinkler sets etc. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are organised on farmer's field to transfer the production technology.

#### Statement-I

##### State-wise Advance Estimates of Production of Kharif 1996-97 season of Groundnut

('000 Tonnes)

State	Kharif 1996-97
Andhra Pradesh	1665.0
Bihar	4.0
Gujarat	2159.0
Haryana	3.0
Karnataka	955.0
Kerala	12.0
Madhya Pradesh	310.0
Maharashtra	506.0
Orissa	39.0
Punjab	12.0
Rajasthan	247.0
Tamil Nadu	1100.0
Uttar Pradesh	110.0
Others	5.0
All India	7127.0